



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, OUR BROTHER MAN

Can Flax be Profitably Cultivated in Maine?

The culture of flax, since the multiplication of cotton factories and the importations of foreign linen, has very much declined in this State. It was formerly quite a business. Every farmer had his "flax patch," and every farmer's wife had her "foot wheel," and looms, and they manufactured their flaxen towels and table cloths. Their "fine twined linen," thread, and tow frocks. We have always looked back to those "good old times" with regret. We can now have more linen at a cheaper rate, it is true; but the people are none the happier, and the health, vigor, and true stamina of physical and moral character, has very much declined.

There is something in the union of effort and social exertion, that makes the domestic manufactory more conducive to good morals than the cold and selfish system of tasking in the overgrown establishments of the present day. But it is the system of the age. Public opinion and public usage have adopted it, and we must submit. Not only submit but try to make the farmer in the best way it can be done. The reason why we have asked the above question, and called the attention of the farmers of Maine to it, is this. A gentleman from Massachusetts recently called upon us while making a tour of observation in some of our counties, with a view to ascertain the capabilities of our soil and climate, for the successful culture of flax. He proposes to establish, at convenient points, mills for roting and dressing, and breaking or scutching the flax by steam. His plan is to contract with the farmers for their flax crop, on the following terms. He will lend them the seed to sow. The farmers to raise the flax, (pull it and thrash out the seed) and deliver it at the mill for twelve dollars per ton. For the seed, they will receive one dollar per bushel. Now the main question is, can our farmers do this with profit? The manner in which flax has been raised among us recently, can only give data to answer a part of the question—that is, that our soil and climate are suitable for the flax culture. But we are in want of more facts, in order to answer it fully and definitely. How much seed can we obtain per acre? How many pounds or tons per acre of the dry straw? What are the comparative exhausting powers of the crop, compared with wheat, corn, barley, &c.

The hardest labor in flax raising, has hitherto been the harvesting or pulling it. We suppose that it will take a man, say four days, to pull an acre—or, say the expense of harvesting is four dollars. This labor is now obviated by the use of a newly invented machine, which is worked by horse power. According to the extract which we publish below, from the Albany Cultivator, it will be seen that it works well, and where flax culture is any object, will come into extensive use. We are inclined to think that the principal objection that our farmers will make to this culture, is on account of the exhausting qualities of the crop. It is evident that this must be very considerable. The seed itself is rich in those ingredients which tend to exhaust the soil, and the glutinous matter in the straw, must also require a large quantity of nitrogenous material, which will exhaust very considerably. To obviate this, the farmer must make himself acquainted with the nature of the ingredients which form flax, and replace them in the soil when the crop is off. If this can be done with out too much expense, there will be no trouble in furnishing as much flax as the proprietors of the mills will take.

We invite our brother farmers to a discussion of this question; and as an aid to the investigation of it, we shall publish, from time to time, such facts as we can obtain from other publications, bearing upon the subject. "EDITOR CULTIVATOR.—The culture of flax for the seed only, has been found to be a very profitable branch of rural economy in Seneca county. Flax culture on our clay loams, has the effect to keep the soil loose and porous, so that after the flax is gathered, the stubble needs only half the working necessary to fit an ordinary fallow for wheat. It is the opinion of many sensible farmers, who do not on that account, grow flax, that a flax crop immediately followed by wheat, is too exhausting to the soil for economical husbandry; per contra, it is stoutly maintained by others who have successfully grown wheat after flax, that if the soil has not been previously too much worn, wheat will succeed better after flax, than on the summer fallow. It is true that the gluten of the stem and seed of flax, presupposes a great assimilation of azotized matter; but the action of the roots of the flax plant on a tenacious soil, seems designed by nature to fit that soil for the reception of ammonia, for which we are told ammonia has a great affinity; thus nature has given to that plant which requires much nitrogen, the mechanical structure of root, to fit the soil to absorb the constituents of nitrogen and carbon from the atmosphere. The quantity of inorganic matter taken by flax from the soil, (not having seen the analysis.) I am unable to determine; but it is well known that of all the cereal grains, wheat contains by far the greatest portion of these substances, its straw alone yielding nearly four times as much as that of barley. Hence, may we not infer that it is to the previous exhaustion in the soil of its wheat forming pabulum by previous wheat crops, and not to the alternation of an occasional flax crop, that the wheat crop is deteriorated.

About four years ago, a mill for breaking and dressing flax was erected in this village, (Waterville). The enterprising proprietor, Mr. Gardner Wood, had induced many farmers to pull their flax, and to sow and save the list; instead of

pursuing the old course of cutting up the flax with the scythe, and appropriating the seed only. To encourage a more general pulling of the flax in order to save the list, Mr. Wood has procured from the patentee in New Jersey, a flax pulling machine. It is of wood and iron on low wheels, about the bulk of a small wagon, cost \$90, with the right to use it. With the help of this machine, four men have pulled and bunched sixteen acres of flax in four days; but as the machine requires some mechanical tact, and can only be used on a smooth surface, most of the flax intended for dressing, is still pulled by hand.

The success of the Seneca county farmers in making a flax crop a succedaneum for the sun stricken fallow, has induced many farmers in the neighboring counties to adopt its culture. In the town of Hannibal, Oswego county, a flax dressing mill has just been erected, which will dress this season about 20,000 lbs. of clean flax. Mr. C. Gifford, of the same town, has grown the same on five acres of land, 584 bushels of seed, and 1,750 lbs. of dressed flax; the flax netted him 5 cts. a lb., the seed 9 shillings a bushel. A. Taber, of Ira, Cayuga county, has harvested the past season, 184 bushels of seed to the acre on nine acres; the list of the same yielded about 2,500 lbs. of clean flax, worth, at water price, nine cts. a lb. The land on which the above crops were grown, was Indian corn stubble, plowed once in the spring, harrowed and sowed late in April, with three pecks of seed to the acre, and harvested as soon as the balls began to change color, which, last season, was about the 20th of July, two weeks earlier than in ordinary seasons. The field of Mr. Taber had never received any animal manure; it was on one of those all fertile alluvial grounds of finely divided matter, so common to the gravelly or rather pebbly loams of the north part of Cayuga, Seneca, and the south division of Wayne Co. S. W. Waterloo, N. Y., Feb. 21, 1845."

We have repeatedly urged the attention of our readers to the investigation of this important subject. It is the corner stone of profitable agriculture. To feed the crops, which we cultivate, understandingly, it will be necessary to know what particular food they require. This, at present, is the great enquiry among chemists who have turned their attention to this subject, and, although much remains to be discovered, much has already been ascertained, and the time is not far distant when all that is necessary will be clarified and spread abroad, by which the practical farmer will be benefited. The expense and the labor of raising crops will be much abridged, and as a natural consequence, farming becomes more profitable. We have never had a doubt that every species of plant required a particular or specific kind of food, in order to make it flourish to the greatest degree possible. A knowledge of what this may be, is what we wish.

In looking over the report of the Ohio Fruit Convention, recently published, we were pleased to find some remarks from Prof. Kirtland, a distinguished and zealous cultivator in Cleveland, Ohio, upon the subject, from which we extract the following, as being more particularly coincident with our own ideas. "Community at large have always known that each species of animals requires peculiar kinds of food to insure health, growth, and full development of its powers, and that the kinds adapted to one species, may not answer for another. The cow will starve on that which would fatten the dog.

That each species of the vegetable kingdom, is equally select in its requirements of food, has not been generally understood. An indefinite idea has prevailed, that all vegetables will flourish in a soil, that, in common language, is rich. Both science and experience have, however, shown us that vegetables, as well as animals, must be fed with their appropriate elements of nutrition, in order to flourish. For the last six years I have devoted some time and thought to discover the best and most economical method of supplying fruit trees, and wheat with their appropriate food.

The writings to which I have alluded, have relieved the subject of much obscurity, and enabled me to progress with my researches and experiments with more precision. My farm originally contained very limited quantities of several important inorganic principles of wheat, and those had been so entirely exhausted, by bad management, that wheat would literally produce neither straw nor berry. The pear tree would send forth more than from two to six inches growth in a season; fruit buds would form in excess, the fruit would be lighted, knotty and deficient in flavor, and in the course of four years the tree would exhibit the evidences of old age and disease. In the same soil the apple tree would send somewhat better, while the peach and cherry would flourish both in regard to the production of wood and fruit to the extent of my wishes.

Under these circumstances, I set myself to work, to discover the cause of such results, and soon became convinced that it was a deficiency of some kind of nutrient. The analyses of Prof. E. indicated the kind. Plaster of Paris, clover, leached ashes and a small addition of barn-yard manure, brought some of my barren fields, at the end of two years, into a condition in which they produced large crops of wheat, but yielded only eleven bushels of wheat to the acre. By supplying one of those lots with a second dressing of plaster, turning in a large crop of clover, and adding, subsequently, a supply of barn-yard and slaughter-house manure, and phosphate of lime, I obtained nineteen bushels of superior wheat to the acre, besides that which was wasted by long continued rains. The straw was not heavier than in the former year. A dressing of phosphate of lime, ashes, and barn-yard manure, with a limited supply of salt, has effected an equally favorable change with the growth and fruits of my pear trees.

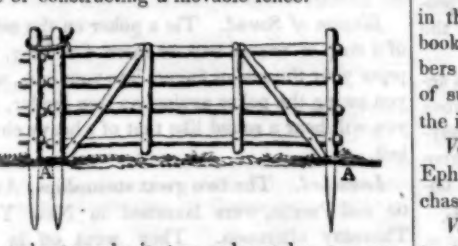
The limits of this communication will not allow of my detailing all my numerous experiments. I will, however, say, in general terms, that they have been in the highest degree satisfactory, and have amply repaid all expense and trouble. A fruit tree or a grain field can be fed with as much success and precision as a cow or a horse,

and an half starved fruit tree is no more slightly or profitably than an impoverished animal. The late Mr. Martin, of Beaver county, Pa., once observed to me, that he "had no sick sheep in his numerous flocks, owing to the circumstance that he visited them daily and saw that they were well fed."

The horticulturist, who pursues a similar course with his fruit trees, will suffer very little from their unhealthiness or unproductiveness. Since I commenced the plan of high feeding, and have banished from my grounds every tree propagated on a sucker, not a solitary pear tree has been affected with Fire Blight. These circumstances may have been coincident but at the same time accidental. The subject is, however, worthy of further attention.

The analyses of Prof. Emmons have been the basis upon which I have founded my experiments during the last year. Movable Fence. The construction and support of fences, are the heaviest part of a farmer's taxes. In order to economize in regard to them, he should be conversant with the several plans and inventions which have been adopted by farmers in different sections of the country.

The annexed cut represents a very simple mode of constructing a movable fence.



In order to make it, two cedar stakes are necessary for each panel. To these are nailed narrow strips of board or light rails, two shorter strips are nailed in an upright position, at equal distances from the two outer posts; braces are then nailed at each end, as represented in the cut. This makes a light but very strong panel. When they are set in the ground, a wire, or a hoop of iron or wire, may be put over the tops of the two adjoining stakes, which will hold them together. When not in use, they may be carefully laid away. The following description of it we take from the Albany Cultivator for 1844.

"Hurdles, or movable fences for confining animals to particular portions of ground, are necessary in many cases, where soiling is extensively practiced; and the operation of this confining them, possesses in part, the advantages derived from soiling, no portion of the field being touched but that on which they are feeding, which is not left till all the herbage is consumed. The manner, being also thus limited to one spot, may be plowed under before much loss is occasioned by evaporation.

A mode of erecting this kind of fence, lately written by the writer, at the residence of Charles Downing of Newburgh, is at once so neat, cheap and useful, that a figure and description may be of value to others. The fence consists of separate frames or "lengths," one of which is shown by the above figure, with a sharpened post at each end, A, A', driven into holes made in the ground by a crow-bar, and secured at the top by withering together, though the latter is not indispensable. These pieces are made of round poles or sticks split in two, the flat sides being placed next to the cross bars, which are fastened to them by wrought nails at the points of intersection. The points of the posts are driven into the ground to a depth of about fourteen to sixteen inches.

These frames or lengths of fence, are four feet high and eight feet long—they cost, besides the material, two dollars and twenty-five cents per dozen in making, or thirty-seven cents a rod. The material would add about thirteen cents more, making half a dollar a rod, for the whole. Two men put up thirty rods of the fence, securing the tops by withies, in about three hours. J. J. THOMAS."

Postage on Seeds and Grains. The Cincinnati Horticultural Society have started a petition, asking the establishment of rates of postage on seeds and grains. This is a good move. If it could be permitted to send such articles by mail at a fair rate, it would be productive of much improvement throughout the Union.

The following is the petition—will the farmers and gardeners of Maine, copy and sign it, and forward it to Congress? To the Hon. the House of Representatives of the People of the U. S. in Congress assembled. The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body for such a modification of the Post Office laws as will enable those persons who are engaged in horticultural pursuits, or others, to transmit by mail, seeds, grains, and such other horticultural objects as are occasionally sent by mail, at a rate of postage not exceeding that of more than two ounces in weight.

Believing that you will at once perceive the general advantage to our country from every increased facility of disseminating throughout its varied districts the various plants and fruits which may be thought useful for cultivation, and especially such as it may be desirable to test in different soils and climates, we consider it only necessary to remind you that the charge of letters postage, according to the present system, retards the progress of improvement in horticulture, and therefore deserves modification.

We might add that we have no doubt the revenues of the Post Office would be greatly increased by the proposed amendment; we consider, however, that by its adoption the public good would be so much promoted that no question of revenue should be allowed to affect it. SUBSTITUTE FOR THE POTATO. Mr. Mason has lately grown a new root, called the *salica*, which can, it is thought, replace the potato. It originally came from Peru, and grows perfectly well in the open air; the flavor is very near the same as that of the potato. The part above ground furnishes a very agreeable vegetable, something like the bean in flavor. Three crops of the growing part can be obtained in the same season. [Paris Paper.]

North Kennebec Ag. and Hort. Society. The Annual Meeting of "North Kennebec Agricultural and Horticultural Society," was held at the Town Hall, in Waterville, on Tuesday, the 30th day of January, according to the notice given. The following is a list of the Officers chosen:

Col. E. H. Scribner, President; R. H. Greene, 1st Vice President; Johnson Williams, 2d Vice President; Joseph Percival, Treasurer and Collector; W. Dyer, Secretary; Amasa Dingley, Agent; W. Dyer, Librarian; Col. E. H. Scribner, Allen Jones, Robert R. Drummond, H. Jaquith, Col. J. M. Marston, Trustees.

The report of the Trustees showed a healthy state of the Treasury. The following premiums were awarded on crops: To Jediah Morrell of Waterville, \$3, on Winter Wheat, his crop being twenty-two bushels from seven-eighths of an acre of land; \$2 to Frederic Paine of Winslow, for Spring Rye; \$2 to Reuben Eaton of Waterville, on Ruta Baga Turnips; \$2 to H. Jaquith of Albion, for about three thousand Seedling Apple Trees.

The following votes were passed by large majorities, and those relating to the Constitution by more than two-thirds the number present voting thereon: To appropriate fifty dollars of the funds in the Treasury for the purchase of agricultural books for the use of the Society, and that members of the Society be invited to make donations of such agricultural books as they may have, for the increase of the Library.

Voted, That Jos. Percival, R. H. Greene, and Eph. Maxham, be a committee to select and purchase books. Voted, To amend the by-laws, by adding thereto the following article, viz: no member shall draw from the Treasury of the Society a premium after one year from the time it is awarded, but if not withdrawn within one year it shall be forfeited to the Society.

Voted, To amend the by-laws by providing that members shall be held for assessments, not exceeding one dollar each per annum, until they shall give notice to the Secretary of their wish to withdraw from the Society, and shall have paid all arrearages due to the Society from them. Voted, To choose a committee of one or more in each town to solicit members.

The following persons were chosen on said committee: J. F. Hunnewell, China; Frederick Paine, Winslow; Charles Drummond, Winslow; Obed Emery, Fairfield; Asa C. Holbrook, do.; Daniel Allen, do.; J. L. Seavey, Unity; H. Jaquith and Albert Crosby, Albion; Amos Rollins and Crowell Taylor, Belgrade; Isaiah Taylor, Smithfield; J. B. Clifford, Sebasticook; Dunbar Howard, Clinton; Levi Ricker, Waterville; J. H. Haines, Burnham.

On motion of Allen Jones, Voted, That the next Cattle Show and Fair be held at Waterville. On motion of J. Percival, Voted, That the next Annual Meeting be held at the Town Hall, Waterville.

Voted, To recommend the getting up of Farmers' Clubs in the different towns. Voted, That the Secretary furnish a copy of the proceedings of this meeting for publication. Voted, To adjourn to the first Tuesday in Oct. next, at 10 o'clock A. M., at this place. Wm. Dyer, Secy. [Eastern Mail.]

Transplanting Trees. Mr. Editor: As the season is approaching when the transplanting of trees will again commence, I propose, as briefly as the nature of the subject will admit, to state my own experience as to the best method of accomplishing this object in New England.

And first, as to the season of transplanting. I am well satisfied that, for deciduous trees of all kinds, the spring months are most favorable; and the sooner this can be done after the frost is out of the ground the better. My plan is to have the holes prepared in the autumn, when it is practicable, because the action of the frost and the snow and rain tend to loosen the earth beyond the hole upon all sides, and thus give the new fibres from the roots a better chance for penetrating the earth. Another advantage is that, by digging the holes in the fall, the decay of weeds, leaves, and other vegetable matter that collects in them, forms the best manure for the roots.

Evergreen trees may be planted a little later than deciduous trees; but I cannot recommend a later period than the 30th of May, and they will be sure to do well if planted at any time for a month previous.

We have all been cautioned against deep planting sufficiently to prevent the practice being very common; nevertheless we are apt to commit a very great error, causing a similar result, by loosening the earth too deeply. We propose now to speak of the manner of preparing the ground for the reception of the tree, by which this error will appear manifest.

In digging the holes, reference, of course, must be had to the size of the tree to be planted. The holes should be at least a foot wider in circumference than the roots, but no deeper than is sufficient to sink the crown of the stem where it rises from the roots to a level with the natural level of the ground, or, if any thing, a little above it. If we examine a tree growing in its natural state, we shall always find that the tree bulges out of the ground, and that the diverging roots are generally visible; while the tree which we plant is set so low that it looks more like a stake driven into the ground than a tree. It is a common practice, after digging the holes as deep as the tree is intended to be placed, to loosen the earth still deeper down, sometimes throwing it out, and putting in small, soft, or mossy matter. The effect of this is, that the tree settles down with the earth, as it hardens, and gets below its natural level, to its great and lasting injury.

In taking up the tree to be transplanted, we are apt to be short-sighted and careless, and we cut away and break the roots without mercy. The proper method of proceeding is, to take off the earth carefully above the roots, then proceed well outside, and trench round the tree till the operator gets below the tier of roots; then, by passing the spade under and towards the centre of the tree, he can loosen it in its bed, and draw it out. Before setting it out, let him examine

the roots carefully, and cut off smoothly every branch that has been broken, and is then ready for planting. To do this in the best manner, it should be placed as near as possible in a similar position to the old one, the roots should be carefully straightened out, and the earth filled in among them by the hand. It should not be trodden down until this has been done, and the earth all in, and then only pressed upon with the foot. No water is necessary; on the contrary, in fine cases out of ten, it is hurtful. If a tree has been out of the ground for a long time, and the roots have become dry, it is advisable to make a puddle of mud, and dip the roots in it before setting the tree.

Mulching trees, after transplanting, is a most simple and ready mode of protecting them from heat and drought. I have never known it to fail in keeping a tree healthy and vigorous against the severest drought. Grass, weeds, stable litter, or even stones around the tree, is a sufficient mulching. This, in our climate, is an essential never to be disregarded, either in fall or spring planting.

Pruning is another important essential to be observed in transplanting deciduous trees. Every tree, when transplanted, loses some portion of its roots, and it follows, of course, that it loses a part of its ability to support its branches, and to furnish the requisite supply of food for a vigorous growth the ensuing season. It becomes necessary, therefore, to sacrifice a part of the tree above the ground, somewhat in proportion to that which has been lost beneath. Now, there are several modes of doing this. I have tried them all, and am convinced that the best, simplest, and the only one that does not detract from the beauty of the tree is, to cut off from every branch, except the topmost leading shoot, the whole of the previous year's growth down to a vigorous bud on the stem. A few more words about transplanting, and I will finish my desultory remarks.

A damp day is better than a bright day; a still day is preferable to a windy one, for transplanting trees; and never expose for a moment, an evergreen tree, to the wind. I have never seen this sufficiently attended to. Where a tree is to be cut, it is only for a few moments, exposed to the wind of sun, a mat should be at hand to protect it. More trees are lost from a desiccation of the roots by a drying wind from any other cause. Lynn, Jan., 1849. R. S. F. [New England Farmer.]

The Cow-Her Diseases and Management. Number 9. Grain Sick. This disease is caused by improper feeding, in allowing the animal too great a quantity of grain at one time, particularly those which have been subject to the process of distillation.

The first symptoms are a dull, heavy appearance of the eyes of the animal; she frequently shifts about from one side to the other, and when she is let loose and driven about, she complains or grunts more or less. On examination, a fullness may be perceived between the hip and ribs, on the opposite side to the milking one, if pressed down with the hand. This fullness is produced by the extension of the stomach. Bleeding and purging are believed to be the only remedy; the first to relieve the urgent symptoms—the second to remove the cause of the disease. The quantity of blood to be taken away may vary from three to five pints; after which, the following purging drink may be given, milk warm, at one dose, in two quarts of water, and half a pint of molasses.

Sulphur, from 9 oz. to 1 lb.; grains of Paradise (cardamoms), 3 drachms; saltpetre, 14 oz.; turmeric, 3-4 oz.; cummin seed, 3-4 oz. When it has fully operated in unloading the stomach, the weakness of the organ, the loss of appetite that ensues, and the deficiency of milk connected with it, will be repaired by medicines of an aromatic and bracing nature; like the following prescription:—

Gentian, cummin, coriander, valerian, and anise seed, each, 3-4 oz.; grains of Paradise, 3-4 oz.; four of sulphur, 14 oz. To be mixed, and given at one dose, in a quart of mild ale or beer, after having previously boiled it with a handful of chopped rue. This should be given when warm, and repeated once or twice every other day, till recovery takes place, which usually happens in a few days.

The regimen should consist of diluent liquors and mashes for some days; and grains are entirely to be given up till the stomach gains its former strength and tone. They are then to be given with caution in order that no relapse may ensue. Losing of the Cud. This malady arises from a relaxed state of the bowels, and the accumulation of food in the first stomach, which, in not being able to be returned by the cow into her mouth, does not undergo the second process of chewing, so essential to the preservation and maintenance of health.

This disease readily yields to the treatment recommended in "Grain Sick," first by purging, and then by bracing up by tonics, diluent washes, &c. Hydrophobia, or Madness. This disease arises from the bite of a dog, or other animal affected by madness, or rabies. Although it is regarded as incurable, it is proper to know its symptoms. These are a constant howling and distress of the cow, a great flow of froth from the throat and tongue, with the breathing somewhat irregular; the malady at last breaks out into an ungovernable frenzy, or madness, and the loss of power over the voluntary muscles extends throughout her whole frame, and in four or five days from the commencement of the disease she dies.

The cow, as well as the hog, the sheep, and the horse, does not appear to be able to transmit this malady by biting, like the dog, the cat, the wolf, and the fox. Wounds by Goring, or Poling. Cows, when they get together in the yard, or elsewhere, are liable to be gored by each other in different parts of the body, especially if any one of them is wounded, and they see or smell the blood. This renders them furious, and they fight and poke at each other with their horns. The treatment of all such wounds is to be conducted, first by endeavoring to stop the effusion of blood, either by styptic, by pressure (binding up) or by astringents, and then by the application of oil of vitriol (sulphuric acid), and brandy, each, 1 oz.; or common salt and nettles, a handful each.

To be beaten together in a mortar till it becomes a pulp, and then placed on the wound. If not sufficient to stop the blood, it may be assisted by pressure or a bandage; if it still fails, and should the situation admit of it, the lips of the wound, or the divided skin, may be brought together with crooked needles or pins specially made for the purpose. When this is done, everything is to be left for the first twenty-four hours, in order that the blood vessels may collapse, and a further effusion of blood may be prevented. At the end of that time, the wound should be dressed. In case the external opening of the wound is confined and the gore very deep, a small candle should be thrust round with flax or tow; and after it has been well soaked in the following balsam, and dipped in the digestive ointment prescribed below, it may be conveyed into the wound and there left:—

WOUND BALSAM. Take compound tincture of myrrh, 4 oz.; cold drawn linseed oil, 3 pint; spirits of turpentine, 4 oz.; and mix well together. DIGESTIVE OINTMENT. Take common turpentine, 8 oz.; spirits of turpentine, 4 oz.; linseed oil, 2 oz.; and mix over a slow fire.

The swelling is then to be rubbed once a-day with the following stimulant oleo:—Lined oil, 8 oz.; oil of turpentine, 2 oz.; oil of vitriol, 1 oz. The last-named article is to be gradually mixed with the other two. The application of this will prevent any tendency to mortification, and also produce quick suppuration, or running of the sore. These dressings may be repeated every twenty-four hours. If the parts are much swollen and inflamed, a dose of Epsom salts may be given, and the following fomentation used once a-day:—Camomile flowers, 1 lb.; wormwood, a large handful; bayberries (Laurus nobilis), and juniper berries, each 4 oz.; beer, or ale grounds, 6 quarts; vinegar, 1 qt.

The whole to be boiled for a quarter of an hour, and then to be applied, while quite hot, by dipping in it a large piece of flannel, and fomenting the inflamed parts. When this operation is finished, the flannel should be allowed to remain, and the animal covered up so as to avoid catching cold. [American Agriculturist.]

Velocity of Electricity. It is not unfrequently a subject of wonder that the velocity of electricity has so accurately measured, when its speed is so incredible; and many persons express extreme disbelief in the correctness of any such measurement. It has nevertheless been accomplished, and that by a contrivance so ingenious, and yet so simple as to be within the understanding of a child, and at the same time incapable of committing an error.

A small mirror, one inch long by half an inch broad, is made to revolve on a pivot, and attached to a spring and cog work which gives it a swift revolution. It is of course perfectly easy to regulate this velocity to any required number of revolutions per second. Coils of wire of various lengths are provided. A coil is taken, say for example, twenty-five miles in length. The two ends of this are brought near each other and fastened on a board on the flat surface of which is left a break in each end of the wire, so that the passing electricity shall make a spark as it crosses each break. A leaden jar is charged and a spark sent through the coil. To the eye this seems to cross both breaks at the same instant, although they are twenty-five miles in length. The experiment is made in a room which has an arched ceiling, in a precise semi-circle, carefully measured and divided into sections. If, then, this board be so placed that the revolving mirror may reflect the sparks, and (the room of course being darkened) the mirror be put in motion and the charge sent along the coils of wire, the first break in the wire will be marked by a reflection of the mirror on the arch, and the spark at the second break will be a little further along on the arch. Thus, if the mirror be making one hundred revolutions per second, and the reflections of the two marks be one-eighth part of a revolution while the electricity was passing twenty-five miles, the time occupied is of course, one-eightiethousandth part of a second, which would give a velocity of 200,000 miles per second.

After repeating the experiment with coils of wire of various lengths, from five to a hundred miles, and finding the distance between the reflections on the arched wall to vary in precisely the same ratio with the lengths of wire, and the final result to be unvarying, it is evident that the problem has been solved, and the velocity of electricity ascertained.

A NEW METHOD OF EXTRACTING PURE GOLD FROM ALLUVIALS AND FROM ORES.—Mr. C. T. Jackson communicates the following process to *Silliman's Journal*.—

"A method of obtaining pure metallic gold in the form of a spongy mass, has been practised by me for several years, and no account of the process has, to my knowledge, been published. It is very useful to the chemist and to the manufacturer, and is more economical than any other method that I am acquainted with.

After separating the gold from silver, by means of a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids, as is usually done, the solution containing gold and copper is to be evaporated to small bulk, and the excess of nitric acid is thus driven off. A little oxalic acid is added, and then a solution of carbonate of potash sufficient to take up nearly all the gold in the state of auriferous potash is gradually added. A large quantity of crystallized oxalic acid is now added, so as to be in great excess, and the whole is to be quickly boiled. All the gold is immediately precipitated in the form of a beautiful yellow spongy, which is absolutely pure metallic gold. All the copper is taken up by the excess of oxalic acid, and may be washed out. Boil the spongy in pure water so long as any trace of acidity remains, and the gold is then to be removed from the capsule, and dried on filtering paper. It may be formed into rolls, bars, or thin sheets, by pressing it moderately in paper. I have made several useful applications of the gold spongy thus prepared, and had a tooth plugged with it in October, 1846, to which purpose it is well adapted. By moderate pressure the spongy gold becomes a solid mass, and buries the spongy gold brilliantly. The jeweller or goldsmith will find spongy gold to be quite convenient when he requires it for a solder, and it is a convenient form of the metal for making an amalgam for fine gilding. I have used it for some years in soldering platinum, and prefer it to the filings or gold foil for that purpose. This method of separating fine gold from coarse is very simple, cheaper than the usual processes. It is applicable in the separation of gold from ores that may be treated by acids, and is vastly preferable to the method commonly used by chemists and assayers. When making oxide of gold for dentists' use, the chemist will find that oxalic acid, added to this potassate solution, will at once recover all the gold that is dissolved in an excess of the alkaline solution, much gold being lost by the usual method of preparing the oxide. Many other applications of this very simple method will occur to chemists and artisans."

A Pint of Ale and a Newspaper. How strangely the value of different things is estimated. A few grains of toasted barley are wetted, and the juice squeezed into a little water, with a taste of the leaves of the hop plant—the value of both being too small to be calculated; and a very slight task is laid upon the mixture, which also cost so little labor as hardly to be reckoned in our estimate. A pint of this sells, at retail, at four pence; and if of good flavor, it is reckoned cheap, and well worth the money; and so it is. It is drunk off in a minute or two—it is gone. On the same table on which this is served, lies a newspaper, the mere white sheet of which cost one penny-farthing, and the duty thereon one penny, with no deductions for damaged, crooked, or over-printed copies made ready for sale, and charged too with carriage from mills and stamp-office at a distance; and it is covered with half a million of types; and at a cost of thirty pounds for itself and sheets printed at the same office the same day, and this sells for no more than the pint of ale, the juice of a little malt and hops! And yet, after one person has enjoyed it, affording him news from all parts of the world, and useful thoughts on all that interests him as a man and a citizen, it remains to be enjoyed by scores of others in the same town or elsewhere; and it promotes trade, and finds employment, and markets for goods, and cautions against frauds and accidents, and gives subjects for conversation; and there are some who think this article dear, though the swiftest-gone barley-water is paid for cheerfully. How is this? Is the body a better payermaster than the mind, and are things of little consequence more prized than things of moment? Is the transient tickling of the stomach of more consequence than the improvement of the mind, and the information that is essential to rational beings? If things had their real value, would not the newspapers be worth many pints of the best ale? [Liverpool Mercury.]

THE RUST IN WHEAT. The following remarks from the *Annual Report of the St. John (N. B.) Agricultural Society*, as to one of the causes of rust in wheat, are thrown out rather as a supposition than an opinion, with the view of exciting inquiry. The oat draws nutriment from the earth by side roots, which spread over the ground. The wheat plant has similar rootlets; but in addition thereof, when about to head, sends down a tap root into the earth, for the purpose, it may be presumed, of procuring the additional nutriment which its large, rich ear requires; and this tap root has been known to go down to the depth of four feet. We may observe, that up to the time of sending down the tap root, the wheat is the least killed by rust, and, in fact, it has died from starvation—the want of that food, which, as a provident husbandman, it was his duty to have provided for it. [American Agriculturist.]

WINTER RULES. It is not too late to speculate in these attractive productions, so admirable for adorning the interior of a dwelling-house in winter. Hyacinths may still be planted in pots, and put into glasses, and those which have been brought forward, according to previous directions, should be brought in-doors for forcing. These bulbs can be grown in baskets of moss with excellent effect. The baskets may be varied in shape and size according to the fancy of the amateur; they must have the lower parts impervious to water, either by being made of metal, or by having a China dish put in of the right size. This must be filled with sand, covered with a layer of moss, on which the bulbs are to be placed. If rooted before put in, the plants will be more sure of a regular advancement. The whole should be covered with the best specimen of fresh green moss that can be procured, and a moderate degree of moisture kept up in the whole mass. If the colours are properly varied, these moss-baskets will prove beautiful objects. [Gardner's Chronicle.]

GERARD'S TREES. A correspondent writes us that nearly his entire orchard of young trees has been girdled by mice this winter, and after saying that he had supposed he had protected them by wash of soap, gunpowder, &c., he asks what should be done to prevent a second edition of the same story. All washes of lime, soap, gunpowder, &c., etc., we believe are injurious to trees, rather than otherwise, and should never recommend their application. The most secure way to protect trees from being girdled by mice or rabbits, we think, is to take strips of pitchboard about two or three feet long, and of width just sufficient to encase the body of the tree, tie them securely to their place, and with a brush cover them with this. This protects them from mice, &c., &c. In the spring it is easily stripped away, leaving the tree free. [Cleveland Herald.]

ISRAELITY AND GOLD. It is said that two persons in Philadelphia have been put into the Insane Asylum, having lost their wits by the California excitement.



R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 15, 1910.

Rendering Cloth Water Proof.

A friend and subscriber wished us to publish some of the modes of rendering cloth water proof, as he was desirous of preparing some umbrellas in such a way as to be impervious to water.

The most perfect water proof cloth is that prepared at the India rubber factories. This cloth, however, is both air tight and water tight, and is also stiff and heavy.

A method is sometimes adopted for rendering cloth water proof and at the same time flexible and pervious to the air, and is probably the mode which would suit our friend best. It was first published in the Mechanic's Magazine for 1843, and recommended as being suitable for clothing, inasmuch as it permitted air to pass and not water, and was therefore more healthy than if it stopped all ventilation. The process is as follows: Take the purest and best glue; melt it, and when hot, put into it a lump of alum. Stir until the taste of alum is distinctly perceived. The lump may then be taken out, and the size is then ready for use. Some times a little soap is added, as this is thought to render the size more flexible. While the size is hot brush over the cloth with it. Some apply it only to the inside; others to the outside. Some times the size may stain the colors of the cloth, and then it is best to apply it on the inside; but otherwise it is immaterial on which side it is applied. If applied only to the inside, you should pass a sponge, dipped in cold water, on the outside to smooth down the pile of the cloth.

We suppose the principle on which this preparation acts is this: The alum combines with the gelatine or glue, and coagulates it, and thus forms a species of leather, in the same manner that the straggling matter of tan bark combines with the gelatine in the skins of animals and forms leather. It is said that cloths so prepared may be washed in hot water, though boiling hot water will take out the sizing. The person who composed this mode of water-proofing cloth, recommends it for collars of shirts, &c., because they would not fall down or become flaccid when wet. We think a preparation made from clean, pure glass and alum, might be used for this purpose, as there would be no danger of staining the cloth; but for umbrellas and such like purposes, the other mode would be cheaper.

American Railroad Journal.

In 1831, D. K. Minor, an enterprising individual in New York, commenced a journal for the dissemination of knowledge respecting railroads. At that time railroads had not been in use anywhere but a few years, and the knowledge in regard to them this side the Atlantic especially, was very slight indeed, and the establishing a paper devoted to such interests was considered visionary, to say the least of it. With a discernment which at once foresaw the immense advantages which railroads would effect in the mode of transportation, and the consequent change which they would effect in social communication, whether for commercial or other purposes, and also a perseverance not to be deterred by small obstacles, Mr. Minor pushed forward until the present time, and has the satisfaction of seeing the success of the interests which he has so indefatigably advocated, and his paper becoming emphatically the organ of those interests in the United States. He now retires from the editorial chair, resigning the charge to Henry V. Poore, Esq., who is one of our Maine boys, and formerly resided in the city of Bangor. For this enterprise Mr. Poore is well qualified in every respect, and we are glad to learn that he has undertaken the task. His acquaintance with railroading in New England, where they have been most abundantly and most successfully established, will be an available source from which to draw in conducting the work, and the interest he feels for the prosperity of such improvements will be a guaranty that the paper will continue to be a faithful exponent of the principles on which they are founded and defender of their rights. Success to all concerned in the undertaking.

Amount of Steamboat Explosions.

A SUBSTITUTE proposed. According to the report made by Mr. Burke, commissioner of patents, to the Senate, the whole number of steamboat explosions have been thirty-three. Two thousand, six hundred and sixty-three lives have been lost thereby; three millions, ninety-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty-six dollars have been destroyed in property, and two thousand and ninety-seven persons wounded.

The great danger arising from explosions of steam boilers, as well as the cost of running them, have induced many to endeavor to find some agent that would do as much with less cost and danger. Many inventions have been made, tried and laid aside. Recently a new one has been put in operation by M. Tremblay of France, called the combined vapor engine. He uses a little steam to vaporize chloroform, which, after performing its duty, is conducted to a chamber and condensed, to be again vaporized, and thus go the rounds. This vapor is said to be one and one half stronger than steam, and that there is a saving of fifty per cent. It is also stated that one of his engines, of thirty-five horse power, has been at work at a glass factory, in Lyons, for more than twelve months, and that he is now exhibiting a ten horse power engine in London. If such are the facts, the Yankees had better be looking into the business.

SNOW IN THE WOODS, MOOSE, &c. The following note was appended to H.'s communication, inserted in another column:

Feb. 5. Snow is very short in the woods—about a foot. Notwithstanding, the Indians which are encamped about the Forks, have shot several moose.

A man passing up with a team, a few days since, saw a deer cross the road in the open field, in the Spaulding township. His dog gave chase, and soon fastened upon him—worrying him so thoroughly, that the man was enabled to come up and finish him with a stick.

Glissades from the Road-side.

EAST LIVERMORE.

Situation and population—Varieties of soil—Mills, &c.—Livestock—Farms—Railroad Movement—Mr. Wadsworth's Stock—Durham Short-horn Cattle.

The town of Livermore, as incorporated in 1795, was divided in March, 1841. East Livermore comprises that part which lies on the east of the Androscoggin river. It is bounded north by Jay, East by Fayette, and south by Leeds. The present population of the town is about 1200. In the south part of the town, and on the river, the soil is sandy, with a clay subsoil, and free from stones. In the north-east part, there is a high rocky hill, known as "Moose Hill." On the top of this hill are about thirty acres of land nearly level, with a never-failing spring, which affords good pasture as can be found. In this neighborhood the land is rather hard and rocky, and somewhat moist; it is however the best portion of the town for grass and pasture, and the best for stock-raising and orcharding.

On a small stream, which empties into the Androscoggin a short distance below the Falls, there are a saw-mill, shingle-mill, and some other machinery. We also noticed that a lot of pine timber which grew near, was being cut and hauled to the stream near the river. We learned that it was to be rafted to Wayne Village, by way of Androscoggin river and pond. Pine timber, we should suppose, was abundant along the river, and some of it is yet left.

At Livermore Falls there is a valuable water privilege. Here is a growing village of considerable trade and importance. Four years ago, this place was visited by a tremendous freshet, which carried away all the mills and all the stores but one. Since then they have been rebuilt, and some of them at least, in a very thorough and substantial manner. The grist-mill, in its internal arrangement and finish, we consider the nearest and best that we have ever seen. It has three runs of burr stones and one of granite, with two belts. It is owned by Capt. E. Treat. There are a saw-mill, shingle-mill and lat-mill at the Falls; also five stores, a tavern, several mechanics' shops, &c.

A charter has been obtained for a railroad to connect with the Androscoggin and Kennebec River in Leeds or Greene, and extending through East Livermore to Jay Bridge, a distance of about 17 miles. The route is said to be one of the most favorable that can be found, it being generally through a level, sandy tract, free from ledges, and requiring no graving. We found considerable interest manifested in the proposed work in this town vicinity. The survey has been completed, and a meeting was to be held on Feb. 1st, to organize the company. If the road should be completed, it would no doubt bring the water-power of the place into requisition, and enhance the value of the neighboring farms.

Our friend, Jesse Wadsworth, of this town, has been at considerable expense, and has taken great pains to procure a herd of thoroughbred Durham Short-horn cattle. We are satisfied that he is doing a good service for the farmers of this State, and we hope his liberality and public spirit will be appreciated by the community. We had the pleasure of looking at some very superior animals of this breed in his yard.

About eight years ago, Mr. Wadsworth purchased the full blood Durham cow "Europa," from "Europa," by "Jupiter," raised by Colonel Jaques, of Charleston. From this cow he raised a superior bull, "the grandson of Fitz Favorite," now six years old, which was exhibited at the last Cattle Show. He stands at the present time in the town of Greene.

Mr. Wadsworth has since made several purchases from the herd of Paoli (Stock, South Hadley Falls, Mass.) Of Mr. L.'s stock, we have the following account: "In the first place his stock were selected and bred with the utmost care, and to the best of his judgment. In his first purchases he bought none but the best he could find, without regard to the cost. He paid for one cow \$700, for one bull \$500, and for several cows from \$300 to \$400 each. His young stock were got by 'Northern American,' said by good judges to be the best bull in New England. He took the first premium of \$30, at the State Fair, held at Worcester, in 1844; and he also took the first premiums of the societies of Hampshire, Haverhill and Franklin Counties. Mr. L. took three heifers thirty miles west of Philadelphia, to an imported bull, at a cost of \$185. 'Northern American' is one of the calves. He measured seven feet nine inches with close girth, and weighed 2260 pounds. Of three cows measured, the smallest was six feet ten inches; the largest, which was seven feet, weighed over 1500 pounds. A son of Northern American which was bought to match him, at 3 years old past, weighed 2200 pounds. Mr. L. has sold cows and heifers from his stock for \$200 each. His cow 'Louis' was a most remarkable milker, having given milk on an average of fifty-three pounds per day through the month of June, 1842, and made 14 lbs. 2 oz. well-worked butter per week. Mr. Lathrop certifies that the cream from this cow's milk has often been stirred to butter in one-fourth of a minute. We have the most satisfactory evidence, from both the English and American Herd Books, that all these animals are full blood Durhams."

Two years ago last December, Mr. Wadsworth purchased of Mr. Lathrop the "Roan cow, Adalida," now nearly six years old, full blood Durham. See "Am. Herd Book," p. 142.

Also at the same time and of the same individual, he purchased the bull calf, "Oceola," dam, "Yanco," (Herd Book, page 239), sire, "Northern American," (No. 116).

At the same time, he purchased of Mr. L., "Red Lady," now eight years old, dam, "Butter Cup," sire, "Splendid." Herd Book No. 150, also, "Stella," dam, "Stately," (p. 230), sire, "Legan," (No. 95), and "Miss Lathrop," dam, "Lilly," (bred by Solomon Goulding, Grafton, Mass.), sire, "Northern American."

Besides the above, Mr. Wadsworth has now two full blood Durhams which he has raised from his stock, viz: "Young Northern American," calved Jan. 24, 1847, dam, Adalida, sire, Northern American; and "Rough and Ready," calved Nov. 2, 1847, dam, Red Lady, sire, "Rolla," (No. 132). He has also a heifer, calved last June, from Adalida, by a grandson of Fitz Favorite, one thirty-second part Hereford and Bakewell.

We consider this stock well worthy the attention of our farmers. Of the purity of the breed and the excellence of the animals there can be no question. Let those who doubt the superiority of the Durham, or their adaptation to the wants or necessities of our farmers, call and examine the stock of Mr. Wadsworth. They will have had but ordinary keeping—are not pampered or kept for show merely. From such animals, we are satisfied that, with the same keeping, more milk or beef can be obtained in a given time, than from any other breed with which we are acquainted.

Should life, health and prosperity continue, Mr. W. hopes yet to see on his farm a herd of at least twenty full blood Durhams, carefully selected or bred from the best stock in the country.

We are informed that Mr. W. will sell one or two bulls of the above breed.

The following extract is from Lewis F. Allen, Esq., the compiler of the "American Herd Book," and exhibits some of the advantages which would be gained from the general introduction of this breed of animals:

Gold Mine in Maine.

Under the above caption you gave your readers (Feb. 1) an account of the gold dust recently discovered in Bingham, and ask for further information upon the subject.

As the place is now covered with snow and ice, in such a manner as to preclude digging, I have not personally visited it, and can state nothing on my own knowledge; but a neighbor, who visited it, some two or three weeks since, informs me that the glittering particles are found in a swampy bog, on the bank of the Kennebec river, with only a narrow strip of interval between this bog and the river. A small brook empties into this bog, and near the outlet of this brook the sand is coarse, and the gold is found in larger particles than elsewhere. As you recede from the outlet the particles become finer and more numerous. I have seen a small parcel, which was cleaned from the sand by one of the proprietors of the bog. It resembled gold, and I understand that he has placed it in the hands of chemists, who have pronounced it to be gold. The neighbor also mixed to bring away a quantity of the "dust," refined with the sand, just as he brought it up with the sifter. This, after a slight trituration in water, I found presented quite a glittering appearance. Some of the scales, I noticed, were 1-16 of an inch in diameter, and upon being pressed with the point of a knife upon any hard substance, with a horizontal movement of the hand, readily split into two or three scales. This deposit is covered with three or four feet of decomposed vegetable matter, or swamp muck.

A similar substance has been found upon the opposite side of the river, in the town of Concord, by a man named Towne. The report is, that, finding the fire had made havoc with his mill, he went to a swamp, some half a mile from the river, for the purpose of procuring some sliver substance to repair damages, when he lo! the glittering scales met his view.

Other deposits, of a like character, are known to exist in this region,—one at a logging camp, on the Austin stream, some ten or twelve miles above the first mentioned,—and others elsewhere, the extent and value of which will, probably, not be determined until the opening of spring.

The story is current here, that a man at Moose River, named Perry, has discovered gold, not in scales, but lumps, and that he has sent a small parcel to chemists in Boston, which was pronounced genuine,—but not being owner of the soil, he has refused to discover the locality.

Whether the newly discovered mineral is actually gold, time will determine. Should it prove what many suppose it to be, we feel safe in saying, that the indications are such as to give reason to believe that an abundance may be obtained in this region.

Lycium.

Prof. SHEPHERD'S LECTURE. The Lecture of Prof. Shepherd of Bangor, on Friday evening last, before the Lycium, was upon Edmund Burke, an able and statesman. The lecturer was a masterly performance, taking rank with the very best of the season. The subject of the lecture, although somewhat kindred to the one upon which he lectured here last winter, and although some of the great lights of the world, was invested by the lecturer with an interest which drew very few of those present had ever attached to it before. It abounded in passages of vigorous, manly eloquence,—not dependent for its effect upon the mere trick of sounding words, but full of matter,—its inspiration aided only by wholesome draughts from the "pure well of English undefiled." His analysis and estimate of the character and genius of Burke, one of the great lights of the world, and his perceptive force upon that period of British parliamentary history, beginning and ending with the administration of the younger Pitt—was discriminating and just. Mr. Shepherd dwelt mainly upon the character of Burke's oratory. He does not place him in the front rank of the speakers of his time. The graces of manner were lacking in him to a great degree—while his style was too ornate and illustrative—and he wanted the courage to throw away the almost unlimited wealth of imagery which he had at command. His greatest speeches in Parliament upon the most momentous issues, second more, his gladiatorial exhibitions in the senatorial arena, calculated to excite admiration and astonishment at his great intellectual ability and almost superhuman range and grasp of subjects, than an attempt to drive the subject with the force of logic, and the soundness of his argument, and the force of his judgment and the will—the highest and worthiest office of true eloquence. He pronounced a high eulogy on his character as a man and a Christian; accounted for and defended some of his inconsistencies as a statesman; and, as a writer, presented him as a model of a pure and vigorous style. (Banner.)

On Monday evening the Lycium was favored with a rich entertainment from Mr. Hedge of Bangor. His subject was the English Nation. We have no time to give the general course of the lecture; and, indeed, it would be difficult to do justice in the least degree, in a brief notice. His starting point was the Norman invasion, from which he traced the history, progress, and present character and condition of the nation.

The lecture gave evidence that its author not only possessed rich genius, pure scholarship, and "the pen of the ready writer," but with acute discrimination, a close observation, and a deep insight into men and things, which are so needful in a traveller in foreign lands.

John Bull, upon the whole, received a high character at his hands. Strong, practical good sense, noble courage, heroic daring, and invincible firmness, were accorded to him—a Government, for its prompt, efficient action, for the maintenance of right and redress of wrong, superior to any in the world.

In its social relations, poverty had grown from a misfortune into a crime, and the poor man was viewed as the guilty man. Self-interest was the great controlling power—there was no sentiment—no enthusiastic excitement—everything was sober business—even in religion this holds good. The appeal in all cases must be to the pocket—and not to feelings and sentiments of generous humanity.

The next progress and reform the lecturer thought would be in the social system—when he would not predict. The English move slowly towards any change—but there was still hope that industry, overcoming Force, would eventually work out the needed social reform.

It is enough for us to say that the lecture fully sustained the high literary reputation of the Rev. gentleman.

Lecture next Tuesday evening by Hon. Daniel Williams of this town. Subject—History of Augusta.

PURE IRON. Some operatives in iron have advanced the idea that iron, perfectly pure, is easily bruised and dented, like lead, when cold, and brittle and unmanageable in the blacksmith's fire. That bar-iron that is not pure, contains a certain portion of cinders or impurities. This may be so, or may not. We are inclined to think that the operatives in metals, as well as chemists, do not know all the properties of them; and that much hither-to unknown valuable knowledge is yet in store to reward those who may investigate the subject during the next fifty years.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH. lately passed upon Dr. P. Coolidge of Waterville, for the murder of Edward Mathews, has been commuted to solitary confinement and hard labor in the State Prison, for life.

The population of Biddeford in 1840 was 2574. In May last 5493. Since that time the population has increased, and it must now be somewhat larger. Population of Saco 4,408, in 1840. In May 1846, it was 5,590, by census. At the present time it cannot be less than 6000. The population of the two places at the present time cannot fall short of 12,000. (Saco Union.)

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Lecture next Tuesday evening by Hon. Daniel Williams of this town. Subject—History of Augusta.

PURE IRON. Some operatives in iron have advanced the idea that iron, perfectly pure, is easily bruised and dented, like lead, when cold, and brittle and unmanageable in the blacksmith's fire. That bar-iron that is not pure, contains a certain portion of cinders or impurities. This may be so, or may not. We are inclined to think that the operatives in metals, as well as chemists, do not know all the properties of them; and that much hither-to unknown valuable knowledge is yet in store to reward those who may investigate the subject during the next fifty years.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH. lately passed upon Dr. P. Coolidge of Waterville, for the murder of Edward Mathews, has been commuted to solitary confinement and hard labor in the State Prison, for life.

The population of Biddeford in 1840 was 2574. In May last 5493. Since that time the population has increased, and it must now be somewhat larger. Population of Saco 4,408, in 1840. In May 1846, it was 5,590, by census. At the present time it cannot be less than 6000. The population of the two places at the present time cannot fall short of 12,000. (Saco Union.)

Cure of Hydrophobia.

Jonathan French, of North Hampton, New Hampshire, under date of the 7th instant, writes to the editor of the Boston Advertiser as follows:

A number of years ago I received, verbally, from Dr. Benaiah Sanborn, of Sanborn, N. H., an account of his successful treatment of Hydrophobia. Dr. S. had a large practice many years, was skilled, and stood high for moral and intellectual worth. He made no pretensions to such science, and was distinguished to much use of his hands. I repeatedly urged him to communicate the facts he stated to me, to some medical journal. Finding that he neglected to do so, with his consent, I prepared a sketch, which was published in the Portsmouth Journal. Whether the communication obtained much circulation, I have not known. Observing in the papers, recently, accounts of deaths by hydrophobia, in Massachusetts, I forwarded an account, several weeks ago, to a friend, in that State, but have not seen any notice of it in the papers. Reading, this morning, your paper of last Saturday, an article on the subject, I cannot rest another hour, without forwarding the following account for your paper.

I once passed a night at Dr. Sanborn's house. Walking with him in the morning, we picked up some plants by the way side. This led to conversation on its subjects. Dr. S. observed that he had discovered that it is a cure for the dread disease, hydrophobia. Having ascertained that it is an antidote to poison, of extremely virulent character, he has been able to effect a cure, even in hydrophobia. An opportunity to test it soon offered. The swine of four families, on the contiguous borders of Sanborn and Meredith, were bitten by a dog supposed to be rabid. The swine of the four families were given, as soon as possible. I think by moistening their food, with a strong decoction. It was given freely and continued to be given, but I do not recollect how long it was given. The swine of the four families were given, but I do not recollect how long it was given. The swine of the four families were given, but I do not recollect how long it was given.

Dr. Sanborn afterward used lobelia with entire success, in the case of a son of Dr. Moody, of Canterbury. The patient was nine years old. It was the eleventh day, I cannot recollect whether the eleventh from receiving the wound, or from the commencement of symptoms, when the Doctor visited him. He had become very ill. Dr. S. were so severe that it was necessary to confine him in order to administer anything. While the lobelia was preparing, and in hope of allaying the spasms, a powder was given, though with difficulty, in capsules. The powder was composed of 1 gr. opium, one gr. sal. niter, one gr. camphor, and two grs. digitalis, all finely powdered. A strong decoction of lobelia was prepared. It was taken with difficulty at first. For some time what was given, was spat out by his mouth and nose. It seemed to be impossible for him to swallow. Efforts were continually made, and succeeded. The Doctor observed to me that he left him in the morning at the table, and take tea with him comfortably.

Dr. S. informed me that he was called to attend Mr. Noah Newell, of Reading, Mass., in a case of hydrophobia; which cure was effected by the same means. Dr. S. mentioned that he had given three times, at intervals of twenty minutes, after three, once in four hours. When the symptoms are mild, three or four powders in twenty-four hours, may be sufficient. Half the quantity for the smaller child. The powder was given as soon as possible, and followed till it vomits. It should be continued, but not so freely. The wounds should be washed freely with the decoction.

Dr. S. deceased in 1841, at the age 84. He read medicine with Dr. Moore, of Bolton, Mass., continued practice at Sanborn in 1779, and continued in the active duties of his profession upwards of half a century.

WONDERFUL ESCAPE. The New York train from Boston, yesterday morning, over the Hartford and Springfield railroad, while passing over the bridge in Thompsonville, about seven miles below Springfield, met with an accident of a very appalling character, and which might have been attended with the most tragical consequences. The locomotive engine broke through the bridge, and then jumped completely over the bridge, lodging on the edge of the bridge, with one wheel hanging completely over the precipice. The baggage car and tender both ran off the bridge, and were broken to atoms. The crew were picked up by the ship's boat, and the first class passenger car also ran off the bridge, and the car lodged on the edge of the bridge, throwing all the passengers into the forward part of the car. The engine, without doing any material injury. The engineer jumped, and came to a collision with one of the telegraph posts, breaking some of his ribs. What prevented the cars and the engine from being precipitated into the river was a mystery to those who were looking at the scene of the accident. The bridge was from forty to fifty feet above the level of the river. There were several Boston gentlemen among the passengers in the train. (Boston Transcript, 8th.)

A MELANCHOLY DEATH. Among the passengers who arrived at this city a few days ago, in the ship Charles, Capt. Wedge, from Limerick, Ireland, was Captain William C. Wyman, of the U. S. S. "Albatross." He was formerly of Bangor, of Bath, and had started from an English port, with a general cargo, bound to Philadelphia. After being out about forty days, his ship sprung a leak, and sunk under him, in longitude 47 deg. west, and latitude 36 deg. north. The crew were picked up by the ship's boat, and the first class passenger car also ran off the bridge, and the car lodged on the edge of the bridge, throwing all the passengers into the forward part of the car. The engine, without doing any material injury. The engineer jumped, and came to a collision with one of the telegraph posts, breaking some of his ribs. What prevented the cars and the engine from being precipitated into the river was a mystery to those who were looking at the scene of the accident. The bridge was from forty to fifty feet above the level of the river. There were several Boston gentlemen among the passengers in the train. (Boston Transcript, 8th.)

BENJAMIN WATKINS LEIGH, a politician of some note, died at Richmond, Va., last week.

LANDLORD'S RETORT. A gentleman who was in arrears for several weeks' board, complained one morning at breakfast that his coffee was not settled. "You had better settle for the coffee, and then complain."

FIRE IN BALTIMORE. The extensive beef and pork packing establishment, and soap and candle factory of Mr. H. Kimbrey, were destroyed by fire on Sunday. Loss \$40,000. Insurance \$13,000.

IN CALIFORNIA, where gold dust is now a legal tender, when a dun importunes a man for the payment of his bill, he does not say—"Pay, sir, it is convenient to pay me that account to-day?" No—eschewing all circumlocution, he says—"Come, down with your dust!"

A COMPANY FOR CALIFORNIA is being formed in Farmington. All parties of New England will be represented in El Dorado.

PUNCH, looking to the flight of Louis Philippe, Ferdinand, Metternich, the Pope, &c., &c., during the last twelve months, decides that 1848 is decidedly entitled to be called "the highest year on record."

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE IN BRAZIL. According to a recent law, and in force since November, newspapers printed in Brazil pay no postage, and are sent through the postoffice without any charge, as also foreign newspapers directed to public libraries in that empire.

NINETEEN NEWSBOYS were arranged before Mayor Swift, of Philadelphia, on Monday, for selling newspapers on Sunday.

ISLANDS OF MAINE. We learn from the Bangor Whig, that the Hon. Elijah L. Hamlin has delivered a lecture before the Bangor Lycium, the subject of which was, "The Islands and the Islanders of Maine." Mr. H. stated that there were nearly one thousand islands and islets belonging to our State, and that they have a population of about twenty thousand people. The islands, he says, are in general an intelligent people, and are remarkable for their hospitality and generosity. Such we have always found to be their character, when we have come to contact with them. The Whig says the lecture was exceedingly interesting. (Thompson Gazette.)

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DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Feb. 8.

SENATE. Mr. Mangum presented a resolution calling upon the President to communicate to the Senate the documents supposed to be in existence relative to the secret history of the treaty with Mexico.

A report recommending both houses of Congress to meet on the 14th inst., to count the votes for President and Vice President, was adopted.

On the 14th inst., Mr. Allen made a long speech against the ocean mail steamships.

HOUSE. A resolution was adopted for a new mail route on the Mississippi.

Mr. Stephens offered a resolution respecting the proposed protocol to the Mexican treaty, and obtained a suspension of the rules. He then made a speech illustrating the merits of the case, and read the President's reply that it would be incompatible with the public interest to furnish information previously called for. He believed the protocol existed, and reviewed the passages altered by our Senate, and showed that the present treaty did not read as the original one. He accused the President or his agents of imposing on the Mexican Government.

Mr. Houston of Ala. defended the Executive, and said the President had been unjustly accused.

TUESDAY, Feb. 9.

SENATE. The petition of a number of citizens, making propositions to carry the mails to coaches from St. Louis to the Pacific, was presented. It was said the petitioners were men of character, and the proposition ought to be well considered.

House. Mr. Brown of Va. moved to take up a former motion made by him, to reconsider the vote whereby the bill relating to the Circuit Court of Western Virginia was laid on the table.

Decided in the negative.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 7.

SENATE. Mr. Dix reported from the House the River and Harbor bill with amendments. The bill was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Benton reported a bill providing for the location and construction of the Central National Railroad, from St. Louis to San Francisco, with a branch to the Columbia River. Mr. Benton spoke at considerable length on the subject.

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House. A long and exciting debate took place on the amendment offered to the Senate bill for the appointment of Judge to the additional judicial district in Western Virginia. The amendment proposed that the Judge should be appointed by Gen. Taylor and not by Mr. Polk.

The subject was finally laid aside, and the House went into Committee of the Whole on the amendment.

Mr. Preston made a speech in favor of the amendment which he proposed to the California Territorial Bill.

Mr. Brown followed in a strong slavery speech.

THURSDAY, Feb. 8.

SENATE. Mr. Weston offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Navy to communicate certain despatches of Commodore Stockton, relating to his operations in California. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Clayton, Secretary of the Navy, reported the result of the Dead Sea Expedition, was agreed to.

Mr. Dix reported a bill providing for a port of entry in Texas. The bill was read and passed.

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The Muse.

THE MODERN FAIRY LAND.

In the tales of ancient Genii most wondrous things we read,
Of birds of an enormous size, and beams of lightning speed;
The tales which they relate us, so much like magic seem,
We smile o'er them while reading, and deem each an idle dream.

We read there of a magic tale, of power so rich and rare,
"T would reader of no consequence a thousand miles of air;
Your love a thousand miles away, and you safe seated here,
Her form is present to your eye, her accents to your ear!

We read there of a carpet when on its surface seated,
While yet you'd scarce the folds arranged, the journey was completed;
Or north, or south, or east, or west, or in fact anywhere,
Just try the magic carpet, and a throne would have you there!

We read there of an apple, if the sick its odor breathe,
The face, late wrung with agony, would soon in smiles be wreathed;
And sweetly would the sufferer sleep, oblivious of all pain,
Such a mastery over torture, would this magic apple gain!

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The face, late wrung with agony, would soon in smiles be wreathed;
And sweetly would the sufferer sleep, oblivious of all pain,
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Philip laid his purse on the table.

"There are two and twenty dollars that I have gathered. I can do well without them; take them for a new year's gift, and then we can all enter on the new year without a debt or care. God grant that you may be happy in this year, and see many more. For every thing else we must trust to the goodness of heaven!"

Tears came into the mother's eyes as she kissed her son, and old Gottlieb said solemnly, "Philip, you are the prop and stay of our old age. God will reward you. Continue to be honest and good, and to love your parents, and a blessing rest on you. I can give you nothing for a new year's gift, but a prayer that you may keep your heart good and true, then you will be rich enough, for a clear conscience is the only wealth worth having."

So said old Gottlieb, with his hand laid on the head of Philip, who bent down to receive his blessing, and then he went down in an account book that lay by his side, the sum of two and twenty dollars that his son had given him.

"All the cost and keep of your education is now paid up. Your savings amount to three hundred and seventeen dollars, for which I have given you receipt!"

"Three hundred and seventeen dollars!" cried the old mother in the extremity of amazement, and then turning to Philip, with a voice of tenderness, "Ah, Philip," she said, "you give me. Yes, indeed, you do. If you had saved that money for yourself you might have bought some land with it, and started as a gardener on your own account."

But take comfort, Philip. We are old and feeble, and you will not have to support us long."

"Mother," exclaimed Philip, and he frowned a little, "what are you thinking of? Rose is as dear to me as life, but I would give up a hundred Rosens, rather than desert you and my father, or wish your lives shortened an hour."

"You are right, Philip," said Gottlieb, "loving and marrying are not in the commandments, but to honor your father and mother is a duty enjoined on you by God. To give up your own wishes to your parents, is the true gratitude of a son. It will gain you a blessing from above, will make you rich in your own heart."

"If it were not too long for Rose to wait," said Catherine, sadly, "or if you would give up the engagement altogether. For Rose is a pretty girl, that can't be denied; and although she is poor, there would be no want of wooers. She is as good as she is beautiful, and understands house keeping as well as—"

"Never fear, mother," replied Philip, "Rose has solemnly sworn to marry no man but me, and that is sufficient. Her mother has nothing to object to me. And if I had money enough to keep a wife, Rose should be mine to-morrow. The only hardship is that her mother will not let us meet so often as we wish. She says frequent meetings do no good; but I differ from her, and so does Rose, for we think meeting often does us a great deal of good. And so we have agreed to meet to-night at 12 o'clock, at the great door of St. Gregory's church, for Rose is bringing in the year of her friend's house in the neighborhood; and then I will take her home."

In the midst of this conversation, the clock struck three quarters, and Philip took his father's great coat from the wardrobe where Catherine carefully hung it, wrapped himself in it, and taking the lantern and staff, and wishing his parents good night, proceeded to his post.

Philip stalked majestically through the snow covered streets, where as many people were still visible as in the middle of the day. Carriages were rattling in all directions; the houses were all brilliantly lighted. Philip enjoyed the scene; he sang his verses at 10 o'clock, and blew his horn lustily in the neighborhood of St. Gregory's church, with many a thought on Rose.

He only felt the effects of the cold when, at eleven o'clock, he had set out upon his round. His teeth chattered; he could scarcely call the hour or sound his horn. He would fain have slipped into some tavern, to have warmed himself by the fire. As he was passing through a lonely street, an extraordinary figure met him, a man with a black beard, and on his face, enveloped in a fire-colored silk mantle, and wearing on his head a magnificent hat, turned up at one side, and ornamented with a number of high and waving plumes.

Philip endeavored to escape the man, but in vain. The stranger blocked up his path and said, "Ha! you're a jolly fellow, you are, my buck; and I like your phiz—phiz—phiz—confound the word! I like your phiz—phiz—phiz—confound the word! Where are you going, eh?"

"To Mary street," replied Philip; "I am going to call the hour there."

"I'll go," answered the man. "I'll hear you do it. I'll go. Calling hours means to call capital fun, no such jolly lark in the day time. Come, tip us the stove, and do it well, for mark you, I am a judge of music! Do you sing well?"

Philip saw that his companion was in a humor for a joke, and answered—

"I can sing better over a cup of ale in a chimney corner, than up to my knees in snow."

They had now reached Mary street, and Philip sang and blew his horn.

"Ha! that's a poor performance, exclaimed the man. Give me the horn; I'll wish you with such a state, you'll half die with delight."

Philip yielded to the man's wishes, and let him sing the verses and blow. Four or five times all was done as if the stranger had been a watchman all his life. He dilated most eloquently on the joys of his occupation, and made Philip laugh at the extravagance of his praises. His spirits had evidently over a small share of their elevation to an extra quantity of champagne; Philip was hardly surprised at his next proposal.

"I'll tell you what my friend; I've a great mind to be watchman myself for an hour or two. Give me your great coat and well brimmed hat, and take my domino. Go into an inn and take a bottle at my expense; and when you have finished it, come again and give me back my missing gear. You shall have a couple of dollars for your trouble. Come."

But Philip would not consent. At last, however, at the solicitations of the man, he entered into the terms. He agreed for one half hour to give up his watchman's duty, which would be till half past eleven. Exactly at that time the stranger was to come to the great door of St. Gregory's church, and give him back the great coat, horn and staff, taking back his own silk mantle, hat and domino. Philip also told him the street in which he was to call the hour. And in a dark part of the town a change was effected. The man looked like a watchman to the life, while Philip was completely disguised with a half-mask tied over his face, the bonnet ornamented with a buckle of brilliants on his head, and the red silk mantle thrown gracefully around him. When he saw his companion commence his walk, he began to feel he had gone too far in consenting to his wishes. He therefore addressed him once more.

"I hope, sir, you'll be very steady while you fill my place; for if you go beyond my bounds or misbehave in any way, I may cost me the situation."

"Hallo! answered the stranger. What's the meaning of all this? Do you think I don't know my duty! Of wish you this moment, or I'll put you into the cage. Pretty fellow, giving advice to a watchman! Off I say!"

The new guardian of the streets walked on with all the dignity becoming his office, while Philip pursued his way to a tavern, where he intended to regale himself, and thaw his half frozen limbs over a glass of ale.

CHAPTER III.

As he was passing the door of a splendid palace, he was laid hold of by a person in a mask, who had alighted from a carriage. Philip turned round, and in a low whispering voice asked what the stranger wanted.

"My gracious lord," answered the man, "in your reverie you have passed the door. Will your royal highness—"

"What royal highness?" said Philip, laughing. "I am no highness; you are mistaken."

The mask bowed respectfully, and pointed to the brilliant buckle in Philip's hat.

"I ask your pardon, if I trench on your disguise. But whatever character you assume, your noble bearing will betray you. Will you condescend to lead the way into the palace? Does your highness dance?"

"I danced!" replied Philip, somewhat bewildered. "No—you see I have boots on. Still less, I have no money with me."

"By heaven," exclaimed the stranger; "command me your purse; all that I possess is at your service. Saying this, he forced a full purse into Philip's hand."

"But do you know who I am?" inquired Philip, rejecting the purse.

The mask whispered, with a bow of profound obeisance, "Your royal highness, there is no mistaking Prince Julian."

At that moment Philip heard his deputy in an adjoining street, calling the hour, and now he became aware of his metamorphosis. Prince Julian, who was well known in the capital as a lively, wild and good hearted young man, had been the person with whom he had changed his clothes.

"Now then," thought Philip, "as he exacts the watchman's price, I'll see if, for one half hour, I can't be the prince. If I make any mistake, he is himself to blame for it." He wrapped the red silk mantle around him, took the offered purse, put it in his pocket, and said—

"Who are you? I'll return your gold to-morrow."

"I am the Chamberlain Pizow."

"Good, lead the way, I'll follow."

The Chamberlain obeyed, and tripped up the marble stairs, Philip coming close behind him. They entered a magnificent hall, illuminated with half a thousand candles and dazzling chandeliers. A confused crowd of maskers jostled each other—sultans, Bavarian broom girls, knights in armor, nuns, magicians, goddesses, satyrs, monks, Jews, Medes and Persians.

Philip, for a while, was abashed and blinded. Such splendor he had never dreamed of. In the middle of the hall, the dance was carried on by those who preferred that amusement to the music of a full band. Philip, whom the heat of the apartment recovered from his frozen state, was so bewildered with the scene that he could do little more than nod his head to the various addresses made to him.

"Will you go to the huzard table?" whispered the chamberlain, who stood behind, and whom Philip now saw to be dressed as a Brahmin.

"Let me get thawed first," answered Philip. "I am an icicle at present."

"A glass of mulled claret!" inquired the chamberlain, and led him into the refreshment room. The pseudo prince did justice to the invitation. One glass after another was emptied. The wine was splendid, and spread genial warmth through Philip's veins.

"How is it you don't dance to-night, chamberlain?"